

# Washington State Patrol Media Release

**Chief Lowell M. Porter**

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## **WSP Targets Aggressive Drivers**

Chief Lowell Porter announced today the Aggressive Driving Apprehension Team (ADAT) is continuing to show that they are making a difference in highway safety in Washington State. There are currently 33 ADAT vehicles in the state and within the year 13 more will be added. The ADAT program utilizes unmarked/non-traditional police vehicles equipped with mobile video cameras to detect and apprehend aggressive drivers.

Some wonder if the unmarked cars are really fair. The last time you were driving and a vehicle went by you at a high rate of speed, making unsafe lane changes, and tailgating; what was your first thought? It probably was that the driver needed to get pulled over and issued a ticket. Now ask yourself, would that same driver have driven that way if a marked patrol car was ahead of him/her? With an unmarked ADAT vehicle we are able to apprehend these types of drivers who put us all in danger, videotape their actions, and convict them in court. Now throw in a partnership with the Field Operations Bureau, Commercial Vehicle Division (CVD), and the Aviation Division and you have one of the best ADAT programs in the country.

ADAT troopers account for 40% of the total aggressive driving arrests made by troopers statewide. CVD also utilizes unmarked patrol vehicles to combat aggressively driven commercial vehicles and cars driving in a hazardous manner around commercial vehicles.

Aggressive driving stops can also lead to other violations such as warrant arrests, drug arrests, stolen vehicle recoveries, suspended/revoked drivers, and other violations. Below is a comparison of what the ADAT troopers have done:

|                                | February 2002 –<br>January 2003 | February 2003 –<br>January 2004 |               |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------|
| • DUI                          | 665                             | 1,905                           | 186% increase |
| • Negligent Driving            | 2,222                           | 2,806                           | 26% increase  |
| • Reckless Driving             | 780                             | 980                             | 26% increase  |
| • Felony Warrant               | 52                              | 84                              | 62% increase  |
| • Misdemeanor Warrant          | 274                             | 538                             | 96% increase  |
| • Felony Drugs                 | 48                              | 131                             | 173% increase |
| • Misdemeanor Drugs            | 218                             | 543                             | 149% increase |
| • Stolen Vehicles              | 15                              | 27                              | 80% increase  |
| Recovered                      |                                 |                                 |               |
| • Suspended/Revoked<br>Drivers | 934                             | 1,671                           | 79% increase  |

“The Washington State Patrol has the best full functioning ADAT program in the country. This program is a great success story when it comes to increased traffic safety on our states highways. The State Patrol receives yearly Federal grant money to fund the program which is used to purchase the vehicles and equipment. This is a great attribute to the men and women who are working hard everyday in the ADAT program,” stated Chief Porter.

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